Drinking water proposals submitted by Gujarat Government

1457. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of water in Saurashtra region of Gujarat for a long time;

(b) whether the Gujarat Goverment has sent a number of proposals involving Rs. 950 crores to overcome the shortage;

(c) if so, the details of the schemes submitted by the State Government and of those approved so far; and

(d) the details of the schemes pending for approval and sanction of funds in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The State Government had forwarded a project profile, with an estimated cost of Rs. 946 crore for safe drinking water supply for rural and urban areas for seeking financial assistance under French credit. The State Government was requested in October, 1996 to provide certain clarification. The Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment was also requested to give their comments/approval for urban centres.

The State Government is reported to have sent on 24.2.97 the project profile of nine schemes for seeking external assistance. These projects are to be examined and processed. The State Government has sent two more projects for drinking water supply in the fluoride areas of, Kaira district for Central assistance under the Sub-Mission Programme of Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. These projects are under Technical scrutiny.

Scientific Departments Occupied by IAS Officers

1458. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of top level jobs in the scientific departments are at present occupied by IAS officers who do not possess the requisite qualifications;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, department-wise; and

(c) whether the scientists forum has protested against such practice; if so, whether Government have undertaken any study of the implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that a large number of top level jobs in the scientific departments are at present occupied by IAS officers.

Government have seen a communication dated 3.2.97 from the DST Scientific Officers' Forum in which, interalia, it has been mentioned that quite a few of the scientific departments are headed by generalist IAS officers. This is not borne out of facts.

Setting up of councils for science and Technology Programmes

1459. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the councils set up by each State so far on the lines of National council for Science and Technology;

(b) whether it is a fact that such Councils are an important factor in the advancement of scientific research and technology; and

(c) whether Government have emphasised to the State Governments to set up such councils for the betterment of Sci-

ence and Technology programmes and to oversee the working of Non-Governmental Organisations in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The Department of Science & Technology (GOI) initiated the Scheme "Assistance for Department of State councils for Science & Technology" during the 6th Plan (1980-85) to facilitate establishment of State Councils for Science & Technology in each State and Union Territory. As on today, all the States and Union Territories have set up State Councils for Science and Technology.

The State Councils for Science & Technology are expected to act as nodal agencies for formulation, planning, coordination, promotion and application of science and technology for the socio-economic development of respective State & Union Territories. They are also expected to assist in preparing State Science and Technology Plans, compilation and dissemination of S&T information and popularisation of science in the States with the involvement of national laboratories, academic institutions and non-governmental organisations. No specific emphasis has been laid down for the State Governments to oversee the working of non-governmental organisations.

Appointment of Competent Authority Under The Delhi Apartment Ownership Act, 1986

1460. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atention has been drawn to the judgement delivered by the Delhi High Court on March 14, 1993, reported in 51 (1993) DLT 308, in which the argument was accepted that the Competent Authority under the Delhi Apartment Ownership Act, 1986, was not appointed;

(b) whether the L & D.O., who was respondent in the case, apprised the High Court about the Gazette Notification Nos. F. 16(6)/76/L&B/Coord/Vol.III/1377 and 1378, appointing the competenet Authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (c) Delhi High Court judgement dated 14.3.93 reported in 51 (1993) DLT 308, pertains to suit No. 3967/92 M/s Sagar Apartment Flats Ownership Society Registered & Ors. Vs. M/s Sequoia Constn. Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. wherein the L & DC in the written statement in response to para 5 of the Plaint, admitted the contention of the plaintiff w.r.t. coming into force of the Act through notification which was published in Delhi Gazette, Delhi Admn. dated 10.12.87 relating to coming into force of the Delhi Department Ownership Act, 1986 and appointment of competent authorities thereunder.

Private Participation in Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sectors.

1461. SHRI O.S. MANIAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the prospect of private participation in urban water supply and sanitation sectors;

(b) if so, whether any private agency has come forward for funding the schemes in these sectors; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal for mobilising funds to provide drinking water to urban areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT & MINISTER OF